

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

PASS DOT FOR DAS YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, OECD
SUBJECT: ECMT COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES MEETING,
APRIL 20-21

SUMMARY - EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANS-
PORT DEPUTIES MET APRIL 20-21 AND AGREED ON AGENDA
ITEMS FOR MAY 31-JUNE 2 ECMT MINISTERIAL. THIS AGENDA
WILL INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORTA-
TION FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS. DEPUTIES ALSO
APPROVED SEVERAL REPORTS (E.G. ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS &
SIGNALS AND DRIVER TRAINING.) LASTLY, DEPUTIES
DEBATED INCONCLUSIVELY APPROPRIATE ROLES/RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN ECMT AND EEC. U.S. DEL WAS HEADED BY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAYMOND A. YOUNG, DOT.
END SUMMARY.

1. AGENDA FOR MAY 31-JUNE 2 BRUSSELS MEETING OF
MINISTERS -

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DEPUTIES AGREED THAT AGENDA FOR BRUSSELS MINISTERS'
MEETING CONCENTRATE ON FUTURE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION
OF ECMT IN THE TRANSPORT FIELD, ROAD SAFETY (DRIVER
TRAINING AND SEAT BELT USAGE), THE HANDICAPPED AND
TRAFFIC PROBLEMS DUE TO SCHEDULING OF SUMMER SCHOOL
VACATIONS IN EUROPE. OTHER ISSUES WILL BE EXPANSION
OF ECMT'S MULTILATERAL QUOTA FOR ROAD HAULAGE AND NEED

TO LIBERALIZE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT IN EUROPE.
(MISSION WILL CABLE FULL AGENDA FOR BRUSSELS MEETING
AND OTHER RELEVANT INFO UPON RECEIPT FROM SECRETARIAT.)

2. GENERAL TRANSPORT POLICY -

DEPUTIES APPROVED REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON GENERAL TRANSPORT POLICY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTERS' MEETING IN BRUSSELS. REPORTS ON DRIVER TRAINING, EFFECTS OF WEARING SEAT BELTS AND ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS WERE ALSO APPROVED WITH MINIMAL CHANGES. DEPUTIES DEFERRED DISCUSSION OF RAILWAYS' COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM FOR LATER MEETING.

3. ECMT-EEC RELATIONS -

SEVERAL NON-EEC MEMBERS (YUGOSLAVIA IN PARTICULAR WITH SWISS SUPPORT VOICED CONCERN WITH SECRETARIAT PAPER (CS(78)6 DRAFT) THAT SUGGESTS THE EEC MAY PREEMPT ROLE OF ECMT BY PRESERVING FOR THE EEC THE MORE IMPORTANT WORK ON TRANSPORT MATTERS - E.G., TRAFFIC SAFETY, HAULAGE QUOTAS, HARMONIZING BORDER CROSSING PROCEDURES, ETC. FOR ITS PART, ECMT COULD, ACCORDING TO THIS PAPER, SEEK AREAS OF INTEREST IN BROADER GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT. THUS, IN EFFORT TO PREVENT DIMINUTION OF ECMT'S STATUS, NON-EEC MEMBERS URGED MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, I.E., U.S., CANADA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA. (UK DEL PRIVATELY TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT SINCE THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS ESSENTIALLY A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN EEC AND NON-EEC EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF ECMT, WE SHOULD BEST "STAY OUT OF IT". MISSION OFFICER AGREED.) SEVERAL OTHER DELS ALSO EXPRESSED INCREASING INTEREST IN OECD/ECMT RELATIONS. THEY NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT AS OPPOSED TO A TRANSPORT MINISTRY PERSPECTIVE, OECD WORK ON URBAN CONCERNS MIGHT BE DOMINATED BY ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS. THUS, THEY ARGUED, THE ECMT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO MORE CLOSELY COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE OF RELEVANT OECD BODIES.
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